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Johnson & Jensen SPECIALIZED REPORT

AN OFFERING OF FINE ART MEDALS OR COMMEMORATIVE
MEDALLIC ART FOR THE ADVANCED OR SPECIALIZED COLLECTOR

JOHNSON & JENSEN • MEDAL DEALERS • DANBURY CONNECTICUT • COPYRIGHTED

SEPTEMBER 1977

1. CIRCLE
OF FRIENDS
AND OTHER MEDALS BOUND IN BOOKS

America's First Private Art Medal Series Grew Out of 1909 Lincoln Birth Centennial



UNIFORMLY BOUND books reveal inside fine art medals by artists prominent in the 1910s. Before the series ceased twelve book-bound medals were issued by such artists as Victor D. Brenner, Paul Manship, John Flanagan, and eight others.

Circle of Friends Medals Scarce Today

Widely dispersed from their first issuance in 1909, the Circle of Friends of the Medallion (COF) have been quietly collected by numismatists ever since.

Original subscribers—their names are known today—purchased two medals a year much like a book-of-the-month (or the venerable Society of Medalists) two generations later.

It is assumed that most of the original purchasers completed their sets since most of the medals sold in the first two decades afterwards were in complete sets of twelve. Occasionally, however, sets have been broken up, perhaps for topical interest buyers.

The Circle of Friends medals never really attracted the attention of commercial numismatists—they were too widely held and came on the market so infrequently. Of course, dealers did sell sets from original owner's estates, or their heirs, but the series was never mass-marketed like the multithousand medal issues of recent years.

For medals by prominent turn-of-the-century artists, in their unusual book-holders, these sets have never been fully appreciated. It is believed by our staff that a complete set of the Circle of Friends is, at present, an undervalued situation and that these scarce medals (see quantity estimates on table, page 2) provide an excellent opportunity today.

Twelve Issued To 1915 Medals Bound In Books

He may have been the world's greatest Lincoln medal collector (his intact collection is at the Smithsonian), but the world may yet remember Robert Hewitt Jr. for creating the first American medals bound in books.

His first issues were two different Lincoln medals for the centennial of the Emancipator's birth—one medal in bronze, another in silver—in two entirely different books (see page 4). Perhaps the success of these two books-and-medals led him to issue medals *in series*—also bound in books.

Along with New York newspaperman Charles de Kay, a man as gregarious as Hewitt was quiet and unassuming, the two promoted the Circle of Friends of the Medallion (COF)—art lovers who wanted to promote medallic art in this country.

The first Circle medal commemorated the Hudson-Fulton celebration of 1909 (seven months following the Lincoln centennial) and the series grew two a year, perhaps with Hewitt in charge of the medals, de Kay writing the text for each book.

With de Kay's promotional ability, and wide acquaintances among art patrons and the wealthy, the subscription rolls grew to at least 554 by the end of 1911. But for problems still unknown today, the series ceased in 1915—after twelve of the first private American art medals in series were issued—bound in uniform tan cloth books.



Robert Hewitt Jr.



Charles de Kay

Complete Sets For Sale

Sets of all 12 issues of the
Circle of Friends of the
Medallion, offered for sale:

► One Complete Premium
Set in pristine condition
(medals all beautiful mint,
bindings in superb state of
preservation) \$395.00

► Several Complete Sets
(medals all mint, bindings
with only slightest wear)
per set \$375.00

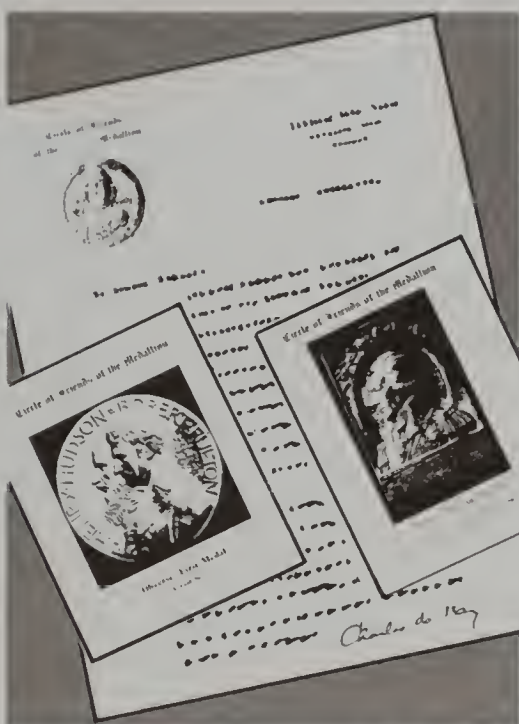
Contemporary Brochures Reveal Quantities Struck

No one knows for certain how many medals the Circle of Friends of the Medallion (COF) had struck and issued. The records simply no longer exist.

However, it is possible to estimate quantities based upon rosters of subscribers which do exist. On at least two occasions the Circle issued brochures soliciting new members and listed existing subscribers; these brochures were published about April 1910 and November 1911.

From these lists—the first enumerated 448 subscribers, the second, 554—plus a knowledge of the frequency that each issue turns up today, estimates can be projected for all twelve issues.

These estimates range from 400 to 600 and can be noted in the adjacent table.



LETTER and brochures solicited new members for the Circle of Friends in second and third year of its existence. The letter, signed by Charles de Kay, and brochures, which listed 448 and 554 members, are from the personal collection of Dick Johnson.

Diamond-D Hallmark Identified

On the first two COF medals appear a small hallmark stamped on the edge at the bottom—a letter D within a diamond. This identified the Deitch Brothers, a predecessor of the Medallic Art Company.

Medal Refinishing Service Now Available

Medals which are tarnished or have an unattractive patina can now be refinished by the best experts in the field. Minor repairs—of edge nicks or small surface gouges—can also be accomplished.

Write or call describing your medals that need attention. It is best to do several at the same time; there is a minimum \$10 charge per order. Costs will be gladly quoted without obligation.



Masthead medal is Society of Medalists number six, illustrated by permission of Medallic Art Co., Danbury.

Number 1 Circle of Friends of the Medallion and other medals bound in books

Johnson & Jensen Specialized Report

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Published irregularly. Subject content and date of publication not predictable in advance—determined by specialized items in stock and recent purchases. Collectors may guarantee receiving issues by depositing \$10 (see form on back page)

Publishers & Editors: D. Wayne Johnson — Chris Jensen
8 Briar Ridge Road • P.O. Box 1085 • Danbury, CT 06810

Circle of Friends of the Medallion Data

No.	Date issued	Sculptor	Theme	Size	*Mfgr. Binder	Estimated Quantity Struck
1	1909 (Sept)	John Flanagan	Hudson-Fulton	70mm	M 1,2	500 ± 100
2	1910 (May)	Isidore Konti	Wanderer Returns Home	70mm	M 3	525 ± 75
3	1911 (Mar)	John Mowbray-Clark	Saint Brendan	70mm	D 3	525 ± 75
4	1911 (May)	Victor Brenner	Motherhood	70mm	D 3	525 ± 75
5	1911 (Nov)	Jules E. Roiné	Lafayette	77 × 47mm	D 1	550 ± 50
6	1912 (June)	John S. Conway	Charles Dickens	70mm	D 1	575 ± 25
7	1912 (Nov)	Louis Potter	Abdul Baha, Persian Reformer	76 × 51mm	D 1	575 ± 25
8	1913 (June)	Siguro Neandross	The Ocean	70mm	D 4	550 ± 50
9	1913 (Dec)	René Theophile de Quelin	John Fremont	57 × 76mm	D 1,3,4	500 ± 75
10	1914 (June)	John Mowbray-Clark	Anglo-American Peace Centennial	70mm	D 1	500 ± 75
11	1914 (Dec)	Paul Manship	New Netherlands 250th Anniversary	70mm	D 1	500 ± 75
12	1915 (June)	Allan G. Newman	Joan of Arc	70mm	M 1	500 ± 75

* Manufacturers of medals:

M = Medallic Art Company, NYC
D = Davison & Son, Philadelphia

Binders of the books:

1 = Unmarked
2 = F. Weidner Printing & Publishing Co.
3 = Robt. Rutter & Son, New York City
4 = N.J. Klos, Lithographers & Printers, NYC

Bindings Protected Medals Inside

One thing about binding medals inside books—it protects the medals.

If owners of the Circle of Friends have left the medals in the books over the years, this act alone has done more to protect the medals than any other. Most medals, therefore, have come down to present day collectors in pristine condition. No nicks. No scratches.

The same cannot be said for the bindings, however. The particular tan cloth in which the books were bound is very susceptible to water damage. Spilled water, rain, excessive moisture have damaged many a binding, and curses to the person who has used them for coasters for sweaty drink glasses.

For the person who likes to study varieties, the bindings provide more than slight interest. Three known printers and/or binders prepared COF bindings, all apparently from the New York City area.

The table above details information on the bindings. Issue number one, it may be noted, has several varieties. It comes with and without a lettered spine, also with and without a printed colophon on the last page. Since these varieties appear

indiscriminately, it is believed they were all produced by the same firm.

Book number nine, on the other hand, were made by at least two firms since there are at least three varieties.

Medals Can Be Removed Easily

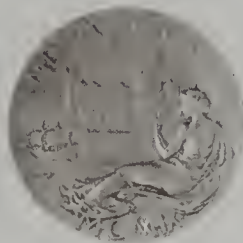
To remove a medal from their diecut page in bound books remember one rule: In from the front, out from the back. Press gently at the top of the medal, then at the bottom until the medal pops out.

Coins Magazine Article

Read the background story and fascinating events leading up to the issuing of the Circle of Friends medals in an article "Premature Circle of Precocious Friends" by our own Dick Johnson. Tells the history and reveals more details on both medals and books.

► Entire November 1976 issue, *Coins Magazine*, as long as small supply lasts... \$2

Variety Of Subjects Present In Circle Of Friends Medals



ISSUE NUMBER 1 HUDSON-FULTON BY JOHN FLANAGAN

- 1A. Medal and book, any variety, both XF to mint condition \$30.00
1. Medal alone, with diamond-D or MED ART CO hallmark, or plain edge; XF to mint \$22.50 (when in stock)

1sp. Medal alone, bronze silver-plated, XF (plated afterwards) \$22.50

Varieties: The medal comes in three edge varieties: plain, MED ART CO, and MED ART CO with diamond-D hallmark. The bindings come in plain and lettered spines, and with and without printed colophon on last page.



ISSUE NUMBER 2 WANDERER RETURNS HOME BY ISIDORE KONTI

- 2A. Medal and book, both XF to mint condition \$30.00
2. Medal alone, mint \$22.50



ISSUE NUMBER 3 SAINT BRENDAN BY JOHN MOWBRAY-CLARK

- 3A. Medal and book, both XF to mint condition \$30.00
3. Medal alone, mint \$22.50



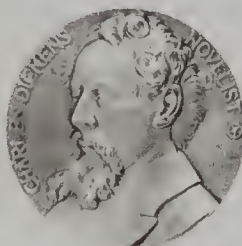
ISSUE NUMBER 4 MOTHERHOOD BY VICTOR DAVID BRENNER

- 4A. Medal and book, both XF to mint condition \$52.50
4. Medal alone, mint \$45.00 (when in stock)



ISSUE NUMBER 5 LAFAYETTE BY JULES EDOUARD ROINÉ

- 5A. Medal and book, both XF to mint condition \$30.00
5. Medal alone, mint \$22.50 (when in stock)



ISSUE NUMBER 6 CHARLES DICKENS BY JOHN SEVERINUS CONWAY

- 6A. Medal and book, both XF to mint condition \$30.00
6. Medal alone, mint \$22.50 (when in stock)



ISSUE NUMBER 7 ABDUL BAHÁ, PERSIAN REFORMER BY LOUIS POTTER

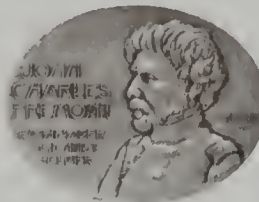
- 7A. Medal and book, both XF to mint condition \$57.50
7. Medal alone, mint \$50.00 (when in stock)



ISSUE NUMBER 8 THE OCEAN BY SIGURO NEANDROSS

- 8A. Medal and book, any variety, both XF to mint condition \$30.00
- 8B. Medal alone, brown patina, mint \$22.50
- 8G. Medal alone, green patina, mint \$22.50 (when in stock)

Varieties: Medal appears in shades of patina ranging from brown to green.



ISSUE NUMBER 9 JOHN FREMONT BY RENÉ THEOPHILE DE QUELIN

- 9A. Medal and book, any variety, both XF to mint condition \$32.50
9. Medal alone, mint \$25.00 (when in stock)

Varieties: Book comes with unmarked or no colophon on last page; or printers mark of Robert Rutter & Son, or N. J. Klos.



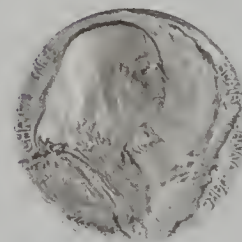
ISSUE NUMBER 10 ANGLO-AMERICAN PEACE CENTENNIAL BY JOHN MOWBRAY-CLARK

- 10A. Medal and book, both XF to mint condition \$32.50
10. Medal alone, mint \$25.00 (when in stock)



ISSUE NUMBER 11 NEW NETHERLANDS 250TH ANNIVERSARY BY PAUL MANSHIP

- 11A. Medal and book, both XF to mint condition \$32.50
11. Medal alone, mint \$25.00 (when in stock)

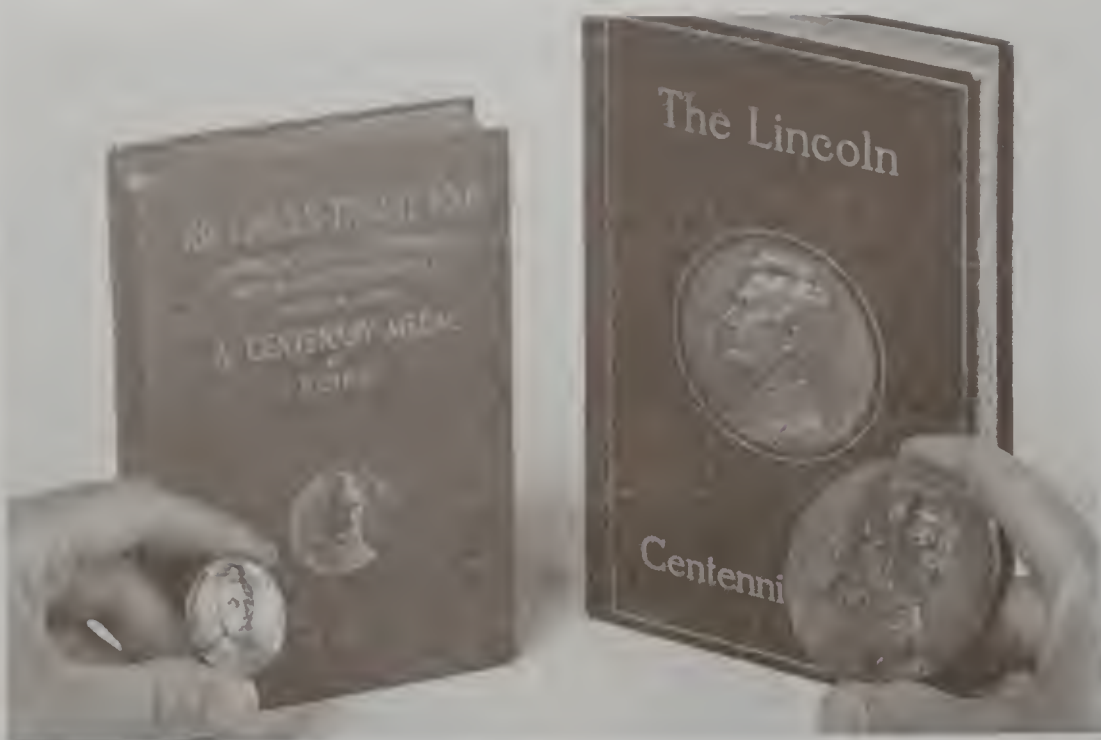


ISSUE NUMBER 12 JOAN OF ARC BY ALLAN GEORGE NEWMAN

- 12A. Medal and book, both XF to mint condition \$32.50
12. Medal alone, mint \$25.00 (when in stock)

Complete Set of 12

► Twelve medals in twelve books, XF to mint \$375.00



ROBERT HEWITT'S first books with medals bound in were both on the subject of Abraham Lincoln. Hewitt had commissioned the striking of the medals, and the publication of the books, each entirely different. His Lincoln medal collection was the finest ever formed.

Lincoln Subject Of First American Medal-Books

Robert Hewitt Jr. published his first book with a medal bound in it during the year 1908. The book was *The Lincoln Centennial Medal*, and in it was the 2½-inch (63mm) bronze medal which collectors call King 309.

The medal was designed and the model created by Jules Edouard Roiné, whose signature appears on the truncation of the shoulder near the bottom of the obverse. Medallic Art Company—the name was suggested by Hewitt—struck the medals, and their monogram "MACO" appears on this variety (omitted on such others as King 306).

The 70-page book was published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York & London; and the book was printed by The Knickerbocker Press, also of New York. There were included articles by George N. Olcott, Richard Lloyd Jones, and

seven Lincoln items.

The following year—during the Lincoln centennial—Hewitt issued a second book, entirely separate with a different medal. Roiné created the second medal as well, this time in full face.

The medal is smaller, 1¼-inch (32mm) and was struck in sterling silver and copper silverplated. Each variety was bound in a 146-page book, edited by Horatio Sheafe Krans.

This second book, *The Lincoln Tribute Book*, illustrates the medal bound in the first book, and contains biographical data on Roiné. The smaller medal is King 332, but there is also a larger version (King 294) in 4½-inch cast bronze.

► **These books and medals occasionally are available. Write for information.**

List Your Medal Collecting Specialties and/or Subscribe to all J & J Specialized Reports

Collectors are encouraged to list their medal collecting specialties with our firm. We can quote medals in those specialties and be aware of your collecting interests as medals come on the market. Also, we can notify collectors in advance of the publication of Specialized Reports in listed or

closely related specialties

Further, collectors may wish to subscribe to receive all J&J Specialized Reports as they are issued (Payment is a deposit—Specialized Reports may vary in cost—you will be notified when your deposit is depleted.)

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☐ \$10 deposit enclosed to receive future Specialized Reports as issued

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Specialties _____

PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE

Preparing an exhibit? Need something to supplement medals? Use photographs. (Tip: exhibit medal with photo of unshown side.) Same top quality photographs as shown on page 3.

- **Any one COF medal (obverse & reverse)**
4 x 5 B&W print \$4
- **All 12 COF medals (2 medals, 4 sides per print) set of six 8 x 10 B&W prints**..... \$24
- **Composite 8 x 10 B&W photo of entire set (page 1)**..... \$5

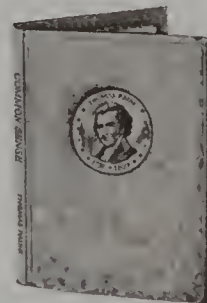
Recent Medals Bound In Books

In 1970 and 1971 the jewelry manufacturing firm of John Roberts Inc. of Austin, Texas issued a series of eight medals bound in book form. Comprising their John Roberts Commemorative Society International, the themes included Woodrow Wilson—Man of Peace, the rising generation, Peace Corps, ecology, the 25th anniversary of VJ Day and others.

Struck in sterling silver, serially numbered, the medals are quite thick and weight over 4½ ounces each. The books contain one page of text and one page about the artists; each book has its own slipcase.

► **One set of eight medals and books \$250.**

Thomas Paine Medal On Cover Of Reprint



While not bound inside a book, the most recent medal-and-book was the 1975 issue of the Medallic Art Company in which a Thomas Paine medal was bound on the cover of a folder containing a commemorative reprint of Paine's classic *Common Sense*.

An exact replica of the 1776 original, from the Richard Gimbel collection of Paineana, was reprinted for the bicentennial celebration. The paper-covered book fits inside a simulated leather folder—which contains the medal—and this fits inside a slipcase.

- **Silver medal and book combination \$67.50**
- **Bronze medal and book combination \$27.50**